4. Rs. 311—7—0 Under "Veterinary Department—Rent"
5. Rs. 110 Under "Veterinary Department—Cleaning"
6. Rs. 60 „ "Veterinary Department—Postage & Telegraph Charges"

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, I may be allowed to move the first three items together.

Mr. Deputy President: Yes.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, I move for the additional allotments of Rs. 311—7—0 under "Rent", Rs. 110 under "Cleaning", Rs. 60 under "Postage and Telegraph charges" under "Veterinary Department".

Demands put and carried

7. Rs. 200 Under "Veterinary Department—Office expenses"

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, I move for an additional allotment of Rs. 200 under the "Veterinary Department—Office expenses". I request the House may be pleased to grant the allotment.

Cut Motion

Mr. Joseph Pattah *(Adur)* : Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move that the allotment of Rs. 200 for Office Expenses under the Veterinary Department be reduced by Re. 1, the purpose being to discuss the fruitlessness of the work of the Veterinary Department in regard to control of cattle and poultry diseases.

Sir, this is a question which is very much concerned with the rural welfare of the people. Almost everyone feels it and almost everyone realises also the helplessness of the position.

The first thing is the cattle disease. We find that every year there is this persistant recurrence of the various cattle diseases. I don't mean to say that a complete eradication of those diseases would be a practical propsition in a few years. But still one would expect a great deal of reduction in the extent of mortality and also in the frequency of the attack. But I am told by the agriculturists in the villages that now-a-days these epidemics are more frequent than formerly and mortality also is very heavy. There are some Veterinary Dispensaries and hospitals and the people have recourse to them. Often times it happens that they have not got the proper medicine in stock, the necessary serum or vaccine. They say that on account of the hot climate of our country these things could not be stocked here. But some arrangement will have to be made by which an immediate supply could be guaranteed. I myself had an experience sometime ago. If the people go to the hospitals they are asked to give an order that the department may place an order with the people at Coonoor or some other place at the expense of the parties concerned and very often it happens that the cost of the medicine would be more than the general value of the animal to be treated.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Sir, I raise a point of order. I don't know how this discussion comes under this Supplementary Grant that is requested for by the Government. The two things are separate, *i. e.*, Agriculture and Veterinary. There is separate staff and separate office. This amount is for office expenses as may be seen from the note to the Standing Finance Committee. I do not understand how the question of serums and vaccines and the policy of the Department can be discussed when a supplementary grant for office expenses is moved.

Mr. Deputy President : As the allotment is for the establishment I think the motion is in order.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur):* Sir, I continue.

So, as regards this cattle disease which is a work proper of the Veterinary Department my suggestion is that they are in a helpless position as proved by the results. I do not question the good intentions and the earnestness of the work done by the officers. But as a matter of fact the results are very discouraging, very disappointing. Every year various diseases come and we know that here in Cochin as in the case of other parts of India cattle is the agriculturists' valuable property and these epidemics which come from time to time cause a very serious handicap in the working of the agriculturist. My contention is that the Veterinary Department will do well to find out ways and means of effectively controlling the cattle diseases. As I said, they cannot do it in a day. It is admitted. But at least if proper measures are taken they can show some sort of reduction in the frequency of the disease and the extent of the

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mortality. I am afraid that these things are not in evidence. As I said before it has become a matter of very common experience.

In very many families we tried certain arrangement to breed fowls and latterly various foreign varieties like the Leghorns and the Rhode Island Red have been introduced. People have been spending large amounts in this direction making costly equipment and all on a sudden comes the poultry disease. Here also there is that general feeling of helplessness and the Veterinary Officers, if at all, suggest a remedy which is more costly than the birds themselves so that the ordinary people are not in a position to have recourse to these remedies. The remedies suggested are prohibitive and even these prohibitive remedies are not found to be effective. So that the experience is that all over the land the rearing of poultry has become a most disappointing affair with the result that many people are not attempting it now. It is the poor man's wealth. It is the comfort of the middle classes. Even in the humble cottages of the agricultural labourers they rear a few fowls and in the months of Karkadagam and other times when they are very hard pressed it is by the sale of these poultry that very often they make both ends meet and they tide over difficulties. Here also I would request the Government to see that some measures are taken which would be really effective in the matter of controlling these diseases. It is only to point out the urgency of this particular aspect of the working of the Veterinary Department that I have tabled this cut motion. I hope the Government will consider the matter seriously and do the needful without much delay.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Sir, I wish to add one or two words because it affects the rural population very much. Very recently in the Villages of Meloor and Chalakkudy many cattle died of expidemic. They approached the Veterinary Department and of course they were doing everything possible. What I think is that the system of treatment undertaken by the Veterinary Department is not efficacious enough in all kinds of diseases. For some expidemics they have no medicine. In Ernakulam I have a friend who had 12 cows. All died except one and that one was treated by an Ayurvedic Physician from Ollur. Therefore, what I suggest is that the system of treatment undertaken by the Department should be altered. They must take up Ayurvedic treatment also. There are very good native physicians who can cure very many diseases of the cattle which the Veterinary Department is not able to treat and cure. That is the practical result. Therefore, I would request the Hon'ble Minister to see that the Veterinary Department gets some Ayurvedic phyiscians also who are skilled in this line of treatment. With these few words I support the motion.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Sir, I only bring to the notice of the Government that the immunity granted to these animals by certain sort of injections as is done in our State lasts only for a small period. The most modern system of inoculating it with serums is not being adopted here. Of course, I congratulate the Hon'ble Minister on his having separated the Veterinary Department from Agriculture. The Veterinary Department can spend more time and they can utilise more of their activities in saving our livestock to a better extent than it was done by the Agriculture Department But the Government also should spend a large sum of money for getting most up-to-date treatment and most up-to-date methods of making the animals immune from all sorts of very troublesome epidemics. With these few works I support the motion.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, as the Hon'ble Mover of the cut motion stated it is not possible under the existing circumstances to prevent the recurring of these diseases. What the Veterinary Department can do now is just to prevent the mortality as much as possible and as soon as information is received the Veterinary Surgeon and other compounders will go to the spot. The serum is kept in the Head Office now. They will take the serum and give injections to the animal. The difficulty experienced now is even in the worst affected areas the ryots are not willing to take to this serum inoculation. I have been even thinking of declaring the area infected. That is the real difficulty.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur):* Is it done gratis or at the expense of the agriculturists?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* We are now doing it even gratis. But in the case of rich agriculturists, I don't think the Hon'ble Member will ask the Government to meet that expenditure from the Government funds. Even if they are not willing the present policy is to see that the Government inoculates those animals also. The main difficulty is that the cultivators are not willing to get their animals inoculated. Some come forward and get their animals inoculated. But others do not agree to it. That is the only difficulty. If we have to prevent this we have to carry out these inoculations at fixed intervals throughout the State.

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Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: The experience in Ernakulam is some cows were inoculated and everyone died.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: We have to recognise the present accepted theories. Cochin State alone cannot have a separate medicine for treating these animals. All the world over there are certain recognised medicines for these contagious diseases and we are also adopting that system. As for the introduction of the Ayurvedic System. I do not think there is any recognised system. But I know personally that there are some Ayurvedic Doctors in some villages who can effectively cure some of the diseases.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: Give them some encouragement.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: Is it a recognised system? That is the difficulty for the Government.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: They are able to cure some diseases.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: The public are at perfect liberty to have recourse to that system also.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: who is to recognise them?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: The Government.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: Then why don't you recognise them?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: There should be some qualification. There are some quacks who can cure some diseases. But can we recognise that? That is the point. The Government have not objected to getting the animals treated by these people. We are doing our best. There was no stock of these serums till now. We are having it now. In spite of various difficulties we are stocking for emergencies and at the first information received by any Veterinary Surgeon he immediately goes to the spot and inoculates these animals. These serums should be preserved in refrigerators. Under the existing conditions we cannot have refrigerators in all the Veterinary Hosptials. I may even tell the House-perhaps the Chief Medical Officer would object to it that for want of refrigerators we are keeping these serums in cold water bath. We are doing everything possible.

Then in the matter of poultry diseases I am not an expert. All the world over I do not think they have been able to find out any real remedy for this pest disease. In America and other places where they rear these fowls on a commercial basis there also at times thousands of fowls die. They just prevent the attack by sanitary conditions. That is all. If once the attack is there the whole thing goes and the best remedy is to kill the first one and the next one also and so on. How can the Government prevent the disease spreading throughout the State? Where two or three fowls may have been kept, can we go and render them any help? It is impossible. As a matter of fact the Imperial Council of Agricultural Reserach is devoting their attention to find out some remedy for this and they have set apart lakhs of rupees. It is for scientists to find it out. Your poor Minister is helpless in the matter.

Mr. Josep Pettah *(Adur)*: Sir, by way of reply I don't want to speak much but I would like to elicit some information. The Hon'ble Minister said that people were unwilling to get these animals inoculated. I should like to know whether the people were unwilling to get their animals inoculated when a free offer was made for inoculation without any fees.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: I know of such instances in my native place. While I was camping there, there was this attack. The people were unwilling to get their animals inoculated. Then I looked into the matter to know whether we connot declare the area as an infected area. I informed the people that the place will be declared infected. Then they came round. In a place where there is this disease we are doing it. We are not waiting for this money. I have instructed the Director of Veterinary Services to see that the medicine is taken immediately to the spot and inoculation is conducted. It is the life of the animal, and the money we can recover from the cultivaters afterwards. Why should the rich people not pay for this inoculation?

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur Rural)*: Poverty.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: The rich man?

Mr. T. P. Poulose *(Kanayannur)*: What is the charge?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: Rs. 5 for 20 inoculations.

Mr. T. P. Poulose *(Kanayannur)*: How many inoculations for one animal?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: One inoculation for one animal.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur)*: I pointed out that fact from my own experience.

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Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* These are the plain facts. Due to war conditions prices might have risen by one or two rupees. Granting that it is Rs. 10: considering the price of the animal which may be Rs. 100 or Rs. 200 can you not spend that amount?

Mr. T. P. Poulose *(Kanayannur):* If one man has got one animal to be inoculated, has he to pay for 20 inoculations?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* In such cases generally the Department will supply. There was no such instance at all. At any rate I have not got any complaint as yet that the Veterinary Surgeon refused to inoculate these animals because he refused to pay the expenses. If there is any particular case I would request the Hon'ble Members to bring it to my notice.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur):* Just a word more. Even now it is not plain whether any farmer refused when the Government offered to inoculate the animal free without the prospect of recovery of the price afterwards.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* I have explained that.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur):* Later on you will recover the cost.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* We are not insisting upon it now. If the intention is to have it done free even for the rich agriculturists, the Government is not prepared to do it.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur):* What I think is in the case of epidemics these things will have to be done freely so that the general public will get the benefit of it. What I say is when there is an epidemic or even in anticipation of it this inoculation will have to be done free. That is the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Agriculture. Preventive measures will have to be done free without making any distinction between the rich and the poor. If that distinction is made the object of the Government is frustrated. For the rest I can only sympathise with the position of the Government. They have themselves shown their complete helplessness in the matter. They say in other countries also nothing substantial is done. So here also we can expect only certain fruitlessness. A note of helplessness prevails in this matter. I hope they will try different systems. If there is anything valuable in the Ayurvedic system that also may be examined and the Governmet may see whether some effective remedies could be had. As far as this technical recognition and such things are concerned whatever sucessfully cures is a successful system. Whether they have a qualification from a foreign country is not much relevant to the purpose. Of course, one successful instance will not be sufficient. The Government will do well to go into that question whether in the Ayurvedic system or any other system some more efficacious methods might be found which would be effectively controlling the cattle disease and the poultry diseases. With these few remarks I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

Cut motion, by leave, withdrawn

Demand put and carried

8. Rs. 16,000 under 25—A—2—Rural Sanitation—Prevention of epidemics

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, I move for an additional allotment of Rs. 16,000 under "25—A—2—Rural Sanitation—Prevention of epidemics". The sanctioned allotment under "Prevention of epidemics" in the Public Health Budget for the current year is Rs. 3,000. There remains only a balance of Rs. 2,000 out of this allotment to meet the expenditure connected with the plague epidemic at Trichur, the plague observation measures at Edacochin and Erattukulam (Chittur) and the Small-pox preventive measure in Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk. This amount is not sufficient to meet the expenditure. An additional allotment of Rs. 16,000 is necessary for the expenditure referred to. I request that the House may be pleased to grant the amount.

Cut Motion

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur):* Sir, I beg to move that the amount of Rs. 16,000 be reduced by Re. 1. The purpose is *to bring to the notice of the Government the insanitary condition of the public tank and bath-room at Mala, which threatens to prove a fruitful source of epidemic.* They say prevention is better than cure and there are very many methods of preventing an epidemic and the most effective method is to remove the very source from which the contagion comes. This tank I had the opportunity of seeing. The Diwan President had an occasion for having a look at it. He himself was pleased to say that it is good only for washing animals

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